GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1469
ANSWERED ON:25.07.2017
Report on GM Crops
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has permitted Genetically Modified (GM) food crops for cultivation in the country and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government has conducted any study on GM crops trails and its aspects and if so, the details and the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the Government has made any survey on BT cotton seeds and if so, the outcome thereof; and

(d) the report and appraisal of the Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India (BRAI) on different transgenic crops thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
(SHRI SUDARSHAN BHAGAT)

(a) Genetically modified food crops are not permitted for cultivation in India. However, Bt cotton, a commercial crop, is the only transgenic crop approved for cultivation in India.

(b) All GM crops trials are conducted with the approval of Genetic Engineering Appraisal Committee (GEAC) constituted by Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change. All confined field trials for Biosafety Research Level-1 and 2 are conducted as per the Guidelines and Standard Operating Procedures for confined field trials-2008, and are monitored by Central Compliance Committees constituted by Review Committee on Genetic Manipulation (RCGM)/ GEAC for the compliance of the terms and conditions of the permit letters and also to suggest measures for proper conduct of the trials.

After approval of the competent bodies BRL-I and II trials of one of the GM mustard hybrid DMH 11 were conducted. This hybrid has been recommended by the GEAC and is awaiting the approval of Ministry of Forest, Environments and Climate Change, Govt. of India.

(c) Surveys are being conducted by ICAR-Central Institute for Cotton Research (CICR), Nagpur in collaboration with State Agricultural Universities on regular basis in all cotton growing states. Based on the incidence of insect-pest, advisories are being issued to take timely remedial measures. Following remedial measures are suggested for the control of pink boll worm:

â€¢ Grow recommended short duration hybrids
â€¢ Discourage long term storage of raw cotton with both farmers and ginneries
â€¢ Avoid stacking of cotton stalks on the field bunds.
â€¢ Crop should not be extended beyond November
â€¢ Compliance of refugia (non-Bt cotton).
â€¢ Timely and appropriate management initiatives.

(d) Biotechnology Regulatory Authority of India (BRAI) Bill -2013 lapsed with the tenure of XV Lok Sabha and, therefore, BRAI has not been setup so far.

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